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ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY REPORT OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS' BROAD RIVER COMPLEX

by

Richard H. Kimmel
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Prepared by the
INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
December, 1973

PREFACE

During December, 1973 the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology conducted an archeological survey of the South Carolina Department of Corrections' Broad River Complex near Columbia (see map). This survey had two goals: first, to determine if present and future construction plans would seriously jeopardize archeological sites; and secondly, to locate any other sites on the Complex property.

The survey, conducted by this author, consisted of document research and on-site inspection. These two aspects of the survey are the subject of this report.

The report would not have been possible were it not for the excellent cooperation between the South Carolina Department of Corrections, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, and the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology. Appreciation is especially expressed to Mr. William D. Leeke, Director of the Department of Corrections, whose foresight initiated the survey by his request for an investigation of the area.

I am especially indebted to Mr. Sam McCuen, Director of Public Information at the Broad River Complex; Warden Robert Stevenson and his son, Chip; and to Paul Anderson of Goodman Institute for their considerate and sometimes extensive assistance. Their efforts directly affected the success of the survey. I am indebted also to the Wardens of the other institutes for their support, they are Warden Wade of the Goodman Institute and Warden Foy of the Women's Institution.

My appreciation also goes to Leslie Beuschel and the lab staff at the Institute of Archeology for their help in expediting the processing of the artifacts, to Dr. Leland Ferguson for his help in identifying

certain of the projectile points and ceramics, and to John Cahill at the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for his help in document research.

INTRODUCTION

The South Carolina Department of Corrections' Broad River Complex is located between Broad River Road and the Broad River near Columbia. The site of the Complex covers 1,000 acres of gently rolling pasture and woodland. Attention was called to the area by plans for expansion of facilities which would include the construction of four new facilities (see map). Director William D. Leeke of the Department of Corrections, notified Dr. Stephenson, of the Institute of Archeology, of these construction plans and arrangements were made for a survey of the area.

The survey was conducted during the week of December 10th, and include document research, inspection of the proposed construction area, and inspection of other areas of possible archeological importance. Much assistance was given by the staff of the Complex, and one private collection, that of Warden and Chip Stevenson was partially cataloged.

DOCUMENT RESEARCH

Document research was carried out in the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology's files, but no information on the area could be found. Mr. James L. Michie of the Archeological Society of South Carolina also reported that the membership was unaware of any sites in the area.

Further research was carried out at the South Carolina Department

of Archives and History with the aid of Mr. John Cahill. A search of files here also indicated that nothing had been previously recorded in the area.

ON-SITE INSPECTION

The first areas to be examined were those proposed for construction, and first among these was the Maximum Security Institution since it is presently under construction. Other areas included those set aside for Staff Housing, Minimum Security and Medium Security.

Inspection of these areas yielded no artifacts and it seems probable, on the grounds of present evidence, that no sites are in danger of destruction from the proposed construction. It should be noted, however, that a large portion of the land set aside for construction is in pasture and is not in the best condition for survey. Also, some of the areas are not staked out and their precise limits are impossible to determine, as are areas for future drainage, sewage and road facilities.

With this in mind, other nearby fields and road cuts were inspected in the immediate vicinity of the Complex. This included fields which were cultivated near the Women's and Goodman Institutes, and road and drainage cuts near the Staff Housing location and Maximum Security construction. No artifacts were recovered from these areas, and it is surmised, therefore, that there was no wide-spread or long term occupation in the central Complex area.

In addition to the central construction area, the property along the Broad River was also surveyed since this is the area of greatest reported concentration of surface finds in the Stevenson collection.

Many of the artifacts in that collection were cataloged by the Institute laboratory staff and the catalog is available at the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology.

The survey of the river area was conducted along the dirt road which runs parallel to the river along the eastern limit of the Complex property and in the adjacent bottom land. Three sites, or more properly, site areas were located here (see map).

38RD76 - Gun Site

This site is located directly behind the Firing Range at the Complex. It is known through surface collection and is represented by many of the artifacts in the Stevenson Collection and by artifacts from the present survey. In addition, reports during the construction of the Range indicated a large amount of cultural debris. On the basis of this information, it appears that the bulk of the material is of Guilford and Morrow Mountain types, with Savannah River type projectile also included. A few pottery sherds were also found, but these are small and difficult to identify specifically, except that they represent an occupation much later than the other material.

This site is not on particularly high ground and has probably been subjected to much flooding in the past. The soil varies in the area being red clay to over one foot in depth immediately behind the Range, and gradually becoming more sandy in consistency and brown in color nearer the River.

This, then, appears to have been a prehistoric Indian village, occupied some 4,000 to 3,000 B.C. as indicated by the Guilford and Morrow Mountain projectile points. Later, perhaps some 2,000 or 3,000 years ago another

group of Indian people occupied the same site as indicated by the Savannah River type projectile points. Still later, perhaps around A.D. 500 or later another group of Indians who made and used pottery vessels moved onto the site and lived there for a time.

38RD77 - Goodman Site

This site is located further north along the present road through the woods. It, too, is known from surface collection. The area of concentration appears to be at the intersection with the old woods road which crosses the present graded road at the top of a hill or bluff overlooking the river. The soil in this area is primarily clay with small stone and gravel size rock. Both Guilford and Morrow Mountain point types were located in the area. This appears to have been a village of the period of 4,000 to 3,000 B.C. and may have been contemporary with the earliest occupation of 38RD76, the Gun Site.

38RD78 - Hind Site

This site is located still further north from 38RD77. It, too, is located on a bluff. This is the site of the present picnic grounds and is located several hundred yards east of the Women's Institution at the bend in the road.

The soil here is like that of 38RD77, and the artifacts are from the same periods, being Guilford and Morrow Mountain varieties.

DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The results of the survey indicated that there is no occupation in the immediate vicinity of present or proposed construction. However,

it is recommended that the Institute of Archeology provide occasional staff to examine the ground during future clearing and grading operations for Staff, Minimum Security and Medium Security facilities, and that the Institute be notified when such clearing and grading is to take place. This action will insure that no sites go unrecorded if they do exist.

In addition, the areas nearest the river which have proven fruitful should be considered for further test trenching when time allows. This will allow the site areas to be more accurately pinpointed and will reveal more of their true nature in terms of affiliation and use. Two of the sites, 38RD77 and 38RD78, are on high ground and do not appear to have been greatly disturbed by man or natural agents. I would suspect that they are in excellent condition and might provide extensive information about the occupation during Guilford and Morrow Mountain times. The third site, 38RD76, with at least three successive occupations may also provide considerable information concerning the relationship between these cultures ranging over a period of 4,000 or 5,000 years.

It has been a privilege to have worked with the South Carolina Department of Corrections on this project. It is especially rewarding to have such cooperation as has been shown by Mr. Leeke and his staff in notifying the Institute of the archeological potential in a construction area. It is hoped that further work may be possible in the future at these sites.

Individual site reports and catalogs are available at the laboratory of the Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina.

BROAD

RIVER

38RD76

38RD78

38RD77

FIRING
RANGE

PICNIC
AREA

OLD
ROAD

N

BOUNDARY

ROAD

CORRECTIONS

WOMEN'S
INSTITUTION

MEDIUM
SECURITY
(FUTURE)

MEN'S
MAXIMUM
SECURITY
(UNDER CONST.)

GOODMAN
INSTITUTION

MINIMUM
SECURITY
(FUTURE)

PRE-RELEASE
CENTER

ROAD

CENTRAL
SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION

STAFF
HOUSING
(FUTURE)

BROAD RIVER ROAD

MAP OF
ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF THE
SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
BROAD RIVER COMPLEX

ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS BY INSTITUTE OF ARCHEOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY, USC
DECEMBER 1973